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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 AID-20 IO-11 UPW-01 RSR-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9841
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SAIGON 14647

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: THIEU'S OPENING CAMPAIGN SPEECH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING) ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY. THE THIEU-HUONG-KHIEM SLATE GAVE ITS OPENING CAMPAIGN SPEECH EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 11. THIEU INTRODUCED HUONG, WHO SPOKE BRIEFLY, AND KHIEM TO RADIO-TV AUDIENCE. THIEU THEN ENUNCIATED HIS CONFIDENCE/NO CONFIDENCE VOTE POLICY. VOTERS WISHING TO VOTE NO CONFIDENCE MAY CAST VOID (NOT BLANK) BALLOTS. IF THIEU RECEIVES 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF BALLOTS, HE WILL CONTINTINUE IN OFFICE. IF NOT, HE WILL RETIRE. PRESIDENT PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OBSERVERS FOR INSURING ELECTION IS "FREE AND DEMOCRATIC." OPPOSITION WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOICE VIEWS WITHIN LIMITS OF LAW. THIEU SAID VOTE WILL BE CONFIDENCE/NO CONFIDENCE IN HIS POLICIES RATHER THAN HIS PERSON. END SUMMARY.

(1)

2. IN A 25-MINUTE NATIONWIDE RADIO-TV APPEARANCE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 11, THE THIEU-HUONG-KHIEM "DEMOCRARY" SLATE BEGAN ITS CAMPAIGN FOR THE OCTOBER 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THIEU BEGAN BY INTRODUCING VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIATE TRAN VAN HUONG

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AND SUPPLEMENTAL VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL (AND PRIME-MINISTER-ON-TEMPORARY-ELECTION-LEAVE) TRAN THIEN KHIEM. KHIEM DID NOT SPEAAK.

3. HUONG SPOKE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, HIS FRAIL HEALTH BEING RATHER APPARENT. THE FORMER PRIMEMINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT HE SHARED HIS ANTI-COMMUNIST VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT THIEU AND WAS READY TO SACRIFICE HIS HONOR AND PRESTIGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION. HUONG ADDED THAT IN 1967 HE HAD NOT COOPERATED WITH THE THIEU-KY SLATE, BUT THAT NOW THINGS WERE DIFFERENT AND HE WAS REENTERING THE POLITICAL SCENE TO HELP SECURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE NATION.

4. THIEU THAN EXPLAINED THE GROUND RULES FOR EH ONE-SLATE ELECTION ON OCTOBER 3. THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT THE ELECTION LAW MUST AND WILL BE FOLLOWED. THEREFORE, BLAND BALLOTS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED SINCE THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR THEN IN THE LAW. HE ALSO SAID THAT CONFIDENCE/NO CONFIDENCE WAS NOT A QUESTION OF HOW MANY VOTERS REMAIN AT HOME ON ELECTION DAY. HE RECALLED THAT IN PAST ELECTIONS 15-30 PERCENT (OR MORE) OF THE VOTERS HAD REMAINED HOME FOR VARIOUS REASONS.

5. THIEU THEN ADVANCED THREE PROPOSALS FOR EHE VOTING:

A. EVRYONE SHOULD GO TO VOTE CLEARLY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON HIS POLICY;

B. IF THEY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM, THEY SHOULD CASST THE BALLOT PROVIDED FOR THE THIEU-HUONG SLATE. TO EXPRESS NO-CONFIDENCE, THEY SHOULD CAST AN INVALID BALLOT (HE DIT NOT EXPLAIN WHAT CONSTITUTED AN INVALID BALLOT). THE TALLY OF VALID/INVALID BALLOTS WILL BE THE PRIMARY DINDICATOR OF THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE/NO CONFIDENCE IN HIM;

C. IF THE THIEU-HUONG SLATE DOES NOT RECEIVE 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST, THE PRESIDENT WILL CONSIDER IT A NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AND RETURE.

6.
TO MAKE SURE THE ELECTION IS FREE AND DEMOCRATIC, THIEU PROPOSED TWO MEASURES:

A. VIETNAMESE ND FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING THOSE HOLDING

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OPPOSITION VIESS, SHOULD HAVE THEE RIGHT TO OBSERVE THE VOTING AND VOTE COUNTING ANYWHERE IN VIETNAM. AMONG THOSE MENTIONED AS BEING POTENTIAL OBSERVERS WERE: INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, SENATORS AND DEPUTIES, VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS, AND PERSONS FROM POLITICAL PARTIES. THE INFORMATION MINISTRY, PROVINCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO FACILITATE THW ROK OF THE OBSERVES.

8. FROM NOW UNTIL ELECTION DAY, THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITHTH THE PRESIDENT 'S POLITICAL LINE WILL HAVE THEI RIGHT TO VOICE THEIR VIEW IN A PEACEFUL WAY AND WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE LAW(NESPAPER ARTICLE, PRESS CONFERENCES, DISCUSSIONS, ETC., BUT TV AND D RADION NOT BEING MENTIONED).

7. IN CLOSING, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE ELECTION WOULD NOT BE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM, PERSONALLY, BUT A VOTE OF CONFDENCE OR NO CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICIES OF ANTI-COMMUNISM, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY, AND PEACE, POLICES OF WHICH HE IS A REPRESENTATIVE.

8. FULL TEXT BEINNG SENT BY FBIS.
BUNKER